

20 November 2019

Our ref: 5749272

Thank you for your request received on 25 October 2019, for the following information:

The request relates to the consultation 'Barnet Cycleway: consultation on a new walking and cycling route' of June/July 2019.

Please provide :

1. the full datasets of aggregated responses to the consultation so far as relating to:

A. the proposals as a whole; and

B. the proposals as they relate to any of Friern Barnet Road, Woodhouse Road, Goldsmith Road, Friern Barnet Lane, Lewes road, Petworth Road, Buxted Road, Horsham Avenue and Friern Park (the individual responses are not required).

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we believe that the exceptions detailed below apply to all the information you requested and so we are withholding that information.

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(the individual responses are not required).

We expect to send a letter to residents in the area consulted, including a link to the consultation report, within the next month.

In the meantime we consider that the exemption in the EIR regarding unfinished documents in production applies to this request.

Once the consultation report is published you may request additional information related to the development of the document if it is not provided.

Refusal Notice

We consider that regulation 12 (4) (d) (In course of completion, unfinished or incomplete) applies to the information requested because we consider that the request relates to material which is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data.

Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the interest in favour of disclosure.

There are also public interest arguments in favour of disclosure:

- The general proposition of maximising openness that the EIR and the Council aspire to;
- The benefits of ensuring transparent and accountable government by disclosing how the Council makes decisions and spends public money;

However, there are also public interest arguments against disclosure:

- Releasing the requested information could prejudice the Council's future decision making process, staff would be reluctant to have free and frank discussions if all that is discussed is subject to scrutiny with no safe space for 'blue sky thinking', the requested information may prejudice pending or future decisions which would be detrimental to the Council.
- There is a set down process by which the responses are checked and assessed and a final report will be made available to the public. To release incomplete or unfinished information ahead of time would divert resources and officer time away from frontline activities and may distract from or confuse the formal set down publication process of the consultation exercise.

In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to

access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.